

Public Service Commission - Mountain Sewer Docket Number 11-097-01 Rate Case

From: Don Harder <[REDACTED]>
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>
Date: 4/30/2012 8:02 AM
Subject: Mountain Sewer Docket Number 11-097-01 Rate Case

Utah Public Service Representatives-

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Mountain Sewer rate case request. My name is Don Harder. I own lots at [REDACTED] through East of Eden LLC. It is my feeling that new fees, rate increases and special assessment requested by Mountain Sewer are not justifiable due to their lack of documentation and questionable accounting.

The size of the increases are significant. A monthly sewer rate increase of 159% for current users. Lot owners connection fee is increased by 67% (raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per lot), plus a new "hookup fee" of \$300 and a new "turn on" fee of \$100. Isn't "turn on" and "hook up" part of "connection"? The worst for me is the new \$24.40 a month charge for standby fees for non-connected lots. There is no charge now, and there should not be a fee for non-connected/non-users of the system.

Regarding the \$165,000 special assessment. I understand that as a system ages, large scale upgrades and repairs may be needed beyond the ability of the normal fees and charges to cover. Unfortunately in this case, the system is relatively new, so I question the underlying reason for the assessment... poor construction, financing costs, legal fees, bad business dealings and accounting practices. I'm also not convinced that the \$165,000 is being properly divided since 2009 records show 230 customers: $\$165,000/230 = \717.39 , not \$1,300 per customer as is being requested.

I see little to no justification for the special assessment or the high rate increases.

Thank you in advance for taking my concerns under consideration.

Don Harder

[REDACTED]